

Appln No. 10/731,271

Amdt date February 24, 2005

Reply to Office action of November 24, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend claim 1 and add claims 20-33 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A self closing slide comprising:
a first slide member;
a second slide member slidably coupled to the first slide member; and
a self closing mechanism coupled to the second slide member comprising a stationary housing comprising and a spring and an actuator moveable in response to a force generated by the spring, wherein the first slide member slides over the spring and the housing, wherein the first slide member comprises a first surface and wherein the second slide member comprises a second surface and wherein when the first slide member is slid over the spring and housing, at least a portion of the spring and at least a portion of the housing are sandwiched between the first and second surfaces.

2. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 1 wherein the first slide member comprises a web portion between two leg portions and wherein a slot is formed on the web portion.

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3. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 2 wherein the slot formed on the first slide member is elongated.

4. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 2 further comprising a third slide member between the first and second slide members.

5. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 2 wherein the slot formed on the first slide member comprises a first portion extending to an end of the first slide member facing the self closing mechanism and a second portion extending from the first portion and generally at an angle relative to the first portion.

6. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 5 wherein an edge of the first portion of the slot formed on the first slide member and an edge of the second portion of the slot formed on the first slide member define a tip.

7. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 6 wherein first slide member comprises a web portion between two leg portions and wherein the tip extends along a plane offset from a plane of the web of the first slide member.

8. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 7 wherein the tip is joggled.

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9. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 6 wherein the slot first portion extends in a generally longitudinal direction in relation to the first slide member.

10. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 1 further comprising a pin coupled to the housing and penetrating the spring and actuator.

11. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 1 wherein the self closing mechanism further comprises a first slot formed on a housing first wall having a first generally longitudinal portion and a second portion extending transversely from said first portion, said actuator being guided by the first slot.

12. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 11 wherein the actuator comprises:

an actuator opening for accommodating the pin; and

an actuator slot extending from the actuator opening to a free end of the actuator, wherein the pin has a diameter, wherein the actuator slot has a width smaller than the diameter, and wherein the pin is pushed into the actuator opening through the actuator slot.

13. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 12 wherein the first slot extends between proximate a first end of the housing towards a second end of the housing, wherein a first end of the pin penetrates an opening in a wall at the first end of the housing and wherein the pin comprises a

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first cap at the pin first end, wherein the cap has dimension greater than a maximum dimension of the opening preventing the first cap from passing through the opening, whereby the pin can pivot relative to the opening, and wherein the pin comprises a second end and a second cap extending from the second end wherein the spring is sandwiched between the second cap and the actuator.

14. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 13 further comprising a second slot formed on the housing proximate the first end, offset from the first slot and in communication with the first slot defining a tine between an edge of the first slot and an edge of the second slot.

15. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 14 further comprising a detent formed on an edge of the first slot opposite the edge of the first slot defining the tine.

16. (Original) A self-closing slide as recited in claim 11 wherein the spring is compressed when the actuator is guided along the second portion of the first slot.

17. (Original) A self closing slide as recited in claim 11 wherein when the actuator is within the second portion of the first slot formed on the housing, the spring is compressed.

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18. (Previously Presented) A self closing slide as recited in claim 11 further comprising a second slot formed on the housing proximate the first end, offset from the first slot and in communication with the first slot defining a tine between an edge of the first slot and an edge of the second slot.

19. (Previously Presented) A self closing slide as recited in claim 18 further comprising a detent formed on an edge of the first slot opposite the edge of the first slot defining the tine.

20. (New) A self closing slide comprising:

a first slide member comprising a web portion between two leg portions and wherein a slot is formed on the web portion;

a second slide member slidably coupled to the first slide member; and

a self closing mechanism coupled to the second slide member comprising a housing, a spring and an actuator moveable in response to a force generated by the spring, wherein the first slide member slides over the spring, wherein the slot formed on the first slide member comprises a first portion extending to an end of the first slide member facing the self closing mechanism and a second portion extending from the first portion and generally at an angle relative to the first portion, and wherein an edge of the first portion of the slot formed on the first slide member and an edge of the second portion of the slot formed on the first slide member define a tip, wherein the first slide member comprises a web portion between two leg

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portions and wherein the tip extends along a plane offset from a plane of the web of the first slide member.

21. (New) A self closing slide as recited in claim 20 wherein the tip is joggled.

22. (New) A self closing slide as recited in claim 20 wherein the slot first portion extends in a generally longitudinal direction in relation to the first slide member.

23. (New) A self closing slide comprising:
a first slide member;
a second slide member slidably coupled to the first slide member;
a self closing mechanism coupled to the second slide member comprising a housing comprising a spring and an actuator moveable in response to a force generated by the spring, wherein the first slide member slides over the spring; and
a pin coupled to the housing and penetrating the spring and actuator.

24. (New) A self closing slide comprising:
a first slide member;
a second slide member slidably coupled to the first slide member;
a self closing mechanism coupled to the second slide member comprising a housing comprising a spring and an actuator moveable in response to a force generated by the spring, wherein the first slide member slides over the spring; and

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a first slot formed on a housing first wall having a first generally longitudinal portion and a second portion extending transversely from said first portion, said actuator being guided by the first slot.

25. (New) A self closing slide as recited in claim 24 wherein the actuator comprises:

an actuator opening for accommodating the pin; and

an actuator slot extending from the actuator opening to a free end of the actuator, wherein the pin has a diameter, wherein the actuator slot has a width smaller than the diameter, and wherein the pin is pushed into the actuator opening through the actuator slot.

26. (New) A self closing slide as recited in claim 25 wherein the first slot extends between proximate a first end of the housing towards a second end of the housing, wherein a first end of the pin penetrates an opening in a wall at the first end of the housing and wherein the pin comprises a first cap at the pin first end, wherein the cap has dimension greater than a maximum dimension of the opening preventing the first cap from passing through the opening, whereby the pin can pivot relative to the opening, and wherein the pin comprises a second end and a second cap extending from the second end wherein the spring is sandwiched between the second cap and the actuator.

27. (New) A self closing slide as recited in claim 26 further comprising a second slot formed on the housing proximate the first end, offset from the first slot and in communication

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with the first slot defining a tine between an edge of the first slot and an edge of the second slot.

28. (New) A self closing slide as recited in claim 27 further comprising a detent formed on an edge of the first slot opposite the edge of the first slot defining the tine.

29. (New) A self-closing slide as recited in claim 24 wherein the spring is compressed when the actuator is guided along the second portion of the first slot.

30. (New) A self closing slide as recited in claim 24 wherein when the actuator is within the second portion of the first slot formed on the housing, the spring is compressed.

31. (New) A self closing slide as recited in claim 24 further comprising a second slot formed on the housing proximate the first end, offset from the first slot and in communication with the first slot defining a tine between an edge of the first slot and an edge of the second slot.

32. (New) A self closing slide as recited in claim 31 further comprising a detent formed on an edge of the first slot opposite the edge of the first slot defining the tine.